AW5 Coorg

1: Srinivas, M. N. Religion and Society Among the Coorgs of South India. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1952.

Pp. xvi, 267.

Yale: Bj51. K9. 952S

[This book by an Indian anthropologist is an "analytic descriptive study" of the religion of the Coorgs of Coorg. The author acknowledges his intellectual indebtedness to Radcliffe-Brown, and the latter sets forth the theoretical orientation of the book in a Foreward. That is, this work is an investigation into the social function of religion in Coorg society--an examination of the relation of religion to the social structure. A general introductory chapter deals with geography, language and history. Then the author undertakes a systematic description of the ritual and cult practices of the patri-lineal joint family, the village community, and of larger groupings of villages. His emphasis throughout is on the "social function of these rituals as expressing and maintaining the solidarity and continuity of the structural system." There is considerable information throughout to show how Coorg religion has become assimilated into the wider Hindu religious community--a process referred to by the author as "Sanskritization." Part of the book is processed for the AW1 India file. --Analyst]

Field date: 1940-42
Analyst: R. H. Ewald

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1955

2: Emeneau, Murray B. Kinship and Marriage among the Coorgs. Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, Letters, Vol. 4, pp. 123-147. Calcutta, 1938 (issued July, 1939).

2 appendices: bibliography.

Yale: Fd12 R81e 4.

/This source, representing part of the work done by the author, a linguist, in 1936-1937 while operating under a grant from the Penrose Fund of the American Philosophical Society, presents a description of the marriage rites and the kinship system of the Coorgs occupying the central portion of the province of Coorg in the area of Mercara and Virajpet, the district between these two towns, and in Naiknod to the west. There is much information on sib organization and its function in the society and the ceremonials associated with marriage. Two appendices give information on the readmission of a woman to her father's sib following the termination of a marriage, and a list of Coorg kinship terms./

Field date: 1936-1937
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Linguist-5
Processed in 1965, 1968

3: Iyer, L. A. Krishna. The Coorg Tribes and Castes, pp. 1-7, 38-66. Madras: Gordon Press, 1948. 16 photographs.

Library of Congress: DS485.C69K7.

[This source presents a brief ethnographic sketch of the Coorg, with data on topography, climate, flora and fauna, prehistory, population, house types, marriage regulations, marriage customs and ceremonies, polyandry, secondary marriages, divorce, the extended family, the property system, adoption, funerals, ancestor worship and religion, festivals, agriculture, diet, dress and ornament, and anthropometry. A section is also presented on the ethnography of the Amma Coorg whom the author identifies as an "indigenous priesthood of Coorg." Each chapter of the text concludes with a short bibliography.]

Field date: no date
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1965, 1968

4: Richter, G. Manual of Coorg: A Gazetteer of the Natural Features of the Country and the Social and Political Condition of its Inhabitants. Mangalore: Published by C. Stolz, Basel Mission Book Depository, 1870.

Pp. xii, 474; 4 illustrations; 8 appendices; corrigenda; end map.

Library of Congress: DS485.C68R5 Documents Department.

[This source was compiled by the author during the fourteen years he lived among the Coorgs as a missionary, Inspector of the Government Vernacular Schools and Principal of the Central School at Mercara. The author's field work was further supplemented by various official records, such as the "Rājéndranáme," and the "Memoir of the Coorg Survey." The source itself is divided into four sections, the first of which deals with the geography of the Coorg region and some of its principal cultivated products; the second with the ethnography of the Coorg people; the third with a cultural history of Coorg; and the fourth, the Coorg under British government, including historical relations, general administration, and missionizing influences in Coorg. In over-all coverage this source is especially strong in history and geography, the data suggesting a considerable amount of scholarly research and analysis on the part of the author, while on the other hand the section on ethnography is only superficially covered and in some instances reflects the author's "missionary bias." Within the section on the history of Coorg will be found a detailed description of the genealogies

4: Richter, G.

of various Coorg Rajahs and their place in the history of the region.]

Field date: 1856-1870
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Missionary, Government Official-5
Processed in 1964, 1968